

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application and stand rejected. The Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 12-13 are allowed is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Park et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,794) (hereinafter "Park"). The rejection is respectfully traversed, and Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view and the following remarks.

I. Park is not qualified as prior art under § 102(b)

Section 102(b) states that a person is entitled to a patent unless "the invention was patented...more than a year *prior* to the date of application for patent in the United States." The present application was filed on October 7, 1999. Park was issued on January 30, 2001, which is not one year prior to the date the present application was filed. Thus, Park is not qualified as prior art under § 102(b).

Notwithstanding the above, at the very least, Park does not anticipate claim 1 for at least the following reasons.

II. Park does not disclose "generating at least one error signal by subtracting the at least one echo signal from the speech signals, as essentially claimed in claims 1."

Col. 3, lines 25-27 of Park discloses an "adaptive filter 21" that generates "a first echo estimation signal y1" from a "first voice signal U." The Office Action apparently argues that the "first voice signal U" of Park discloses the "speech signals," as essentially claimed in claim 1. Col. 5, lines 10-18 and col. 3, lines 31-33 of Park disclose generating "a first echo-cancelled signal" by "subtract[ing] the first echo estimation signal y1 from the

output signal *S* of the hybrid circuit 26.” The recited portions of Park do not disclose an error signal calculated by subtracting the “first echo estimation signal *y1*” from the “first voice signal *U*.” Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Park does not disclose “generating at least one error signal by subtracting the at least one echo signal *from the speech signals*,” as essentially claimed in claim 1.

III. Park does not disclose “at least one adaptive filter...for calculating at least one power value of the speech signals,” as essentially claimed in claim 1.

Col. 5, lines 25-27 of Park discloses a “threshold value *Tu*.” The recited portions of Park do not disclose that the “threshold value *Tu*” is calculated by the “adaptive filter 21.” Accordingly, the “adaptive filter 21,” as disclosed in Park, does not “calculat[e] at least one power value of the speech signals,” as essentially claimed in claim 1.

IV. Park does not disclose “at least one update control means for selectively updating at least one filter coefficient of the at least one adaptive filter in response to the at least one power value and the at least one error signal,” as essentially claimed in claim 1.

Col. 7, line 66 to col. 8, line 4, lines 14-16 and lines 55-59 of Park discloses updating coefficients of the “adaptive filter 21” in response to a flag “ADAP.” The recited portions of Park do not disclose “selectively updating at least one filter coefficient of the at least one adaptive filter in response to...*the at least one error signal*,” as essentially claimed in claim 1.

V. Conclusion

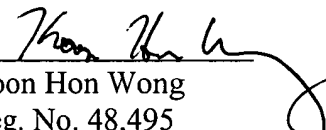
Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinguishable over Park. Independent claim 7 and dependent claims 2-5 and 8-11 are believed to be allowable for at

least the reasons given for claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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